

was he going to break relations with them and cast his lot with the nations of the world that were trying to get rid of the terrorists—he did just that.

Of course, at the time my colleagues and I were there, we had another reason to be concerned about that part of the world because two armies were amassing on either side of the Kashmir border, two armies of nuclear nations which portend awful things for the peace of this world should they get into a hot war, not even to speak of how it would drain Pakistan's energies and military activities away from helping the coalition of nations try to get the Taliban, the al-Qaida, and the terrorist leaders as they attempt to flee into Pakistan.

We went up to the Khyber Pass and met with the commanding general who was commanding about 33,000 troops all in that sector of the Afghan-Pakistan border where we are concerned that al-Qaida are trying to flee.

The general assured us that with all of their troops on the border, plus all of their friendships and lines of communication they have built with the native Pakistanis in all of those villages, they will know when one of those terrorists comes across.

At the time we were there, which was about 2 weeks ago, they had already captured in excess of 200 al-Qaida. We went on to Muscat, Oman, and met with the Sultan of Oman. Again, it is a different kind of government in that region of the world and yet one that is very necessary in helping us as we knit and keep together this fragile coalition of nations, most of them being Muslim, as we fight terrorism in that part of the world.

I believe the leaders in Central Asia now recognize terrorist activity is one of the greatest threats to the stability of their countries, and I believe they are now much more enthused in supporting the coalition efforts because of the extraordinary success we have had.

I will conclude with this: The commander in chief of the Central Command I have the pleasure of having reside in my State, General Franks. He is stationed at MacDill Air Force Base where not only the Central Command is located but also the Special Operations Command. We have another commander in chief on the same base.

I think the military success of this war effort thus far is illustrated by the photograph we saw on the front pages of so many of our newspapers, which was the Special Operations troop, American, on horseback, riding with other Afghan troops on horseback. The difference was the U.S. Special Operations person was calling in pinpoint airstrikes from his vantage point traversing the terrain on horseback. It is a combination of low tech and high tech. It is a commitment of very specialized troops, few in number, but backed up by the superiority of the skies, the precision of the weapons, and the instant communication between the low-tech troop on horseback, or on

the ground, with the high-tech arsenal represented by the skies and by the pinpoint accuracy of the weapons.

So the terrorist is in a compound, suddenly there is an explosion, and he flees and all of a sudden sighs relief that he escaped, and then whammo, the second precision pinpoint-accurate weapon hits. Talk about demoralizing the enemy.

Why have we had success? Because of the combination of that and, in conclusion, because of the absolute determination of our men and women in uniform. That is what made me so proud for all of us, what made all of us in our nine-senator delegation so appreciative that we could express to those troops whom we saw the appreciation of the American people for their dedication and for their success.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

BOWL GAME WAGERS SUCCESSFUL FOR FLORIDA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, as long as we have a lull, on a much lighter note I note for my colleagues some of the conversations I had prior to the Christmas recess and prior to all the bowl games. It so happened Florida had three college teams in bowl games, and so in trying to be a good Senator representing my State of Florida, I went to the respective Senators from the States with the other three teams.

Given the fact that the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville was being waged between Florida State University and Virginia Tech, I naturally went to Senator WARNER and Senator ALLEN and suggested we have a friendly wager on the game. What Senator ALLEN and I agreed to was we would wager a crate of Florida oranges and a bushel of Virginia peanuts.

I am one who absolutely loves peanuts, and I am going to thoroughly enjoy those Virginia peanuts that are going to be presented to me by Senator ALLEN next week. We will have an appropriate ceremony and may even have the president of Florida State University present for this solemn occasion.

Then I went to the other NELSON in the Senate, our fellow freshman, BEN NELSON of Nebraska, and suggested that something as monumental as the national championship being played in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena was certainly worth us determining we would put something of specialty of our State on the line, backing up our boast that our team was going to be the national

champion: The University of Miami versus Nebraska, the Hurricanes versus the Cornhuskers. So we determined in a friendly conclusion it would be a crate of Florida oranges versus a box of Omaha steaks. I am already stoking up my grill.

For the third bowl game of a Florida college team, the Orange Bowl in Miami pitting the University of Florida Gators against the Maryland Terrapins, I searched and searched for Senator MIKULSKI, and I could not find her in the remaining hours of the session. I finally found Senator SARBANES. I explained what I had done in the other bowl game and what was on the line in Miami in the Orange Bowl. Senator SARBANES chose not to engage in a friendly wager, of which I have just had the occasion today to remind him. He suggested he was wise beyond his years in not taking up my challenge.

Early in our tenure one day I overheard the other NELSON in the Senate speaking to a group, in a voice sufficiently loud that he knew I could overhear his statement. I will sum up the conversation in this spirit of levity. Senator BEN NELSON said to them, within my hearing: Oh, you must understand, I am the NELSON in the Senate who comes from the State with "the" football team.

I sauntered over and I said: That's right, BEN, you come from Nebraska, with the great Nebraska Cornhuskers, which I have great respect for, one of the finest football programs in the Nation. But, BEN, you must explain to your folks that I am the NELSON in the Senate who comes from the State with six professional football teams: the Dolphins, the Bucks, the Jaguars, the Gators, the Hurricanes, and the Seminoles.

I think that has now been amply demonstrated by the bowl games we just witnessed.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I inquire of the Presiding Officer, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will speak for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, with the announcement that the Federal Government is facing near-term budget deficits, as opposed to long-term budget deficits, for the next